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JANUARY, 1927

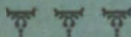
*Official Magazine*  
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
TEAMSTERS - CHAUFFEURS  
STABLEMEN & HELPERS  
of AMERICA**





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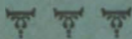
**T**HE NEW YEAR is on! See if you cannot make it better than the old year by bringing in a few members. By making a man a union man you are doing him a favor which he should never forget.



**N**OW THAT the election of officers in many of the districts is over, give your support and aid to the successful candidates. Remember, you would expect to be supported by all of the members if you won. Then show that you are made of the real metal by attending your meetings and supporting the men who won. Don't lose courage. The real stuff in a man is proven by the way he takes his defeat, showing that he is a real fighter possessed of courage and loyalty to the cause.



**W**E CAN'T ALL be officers and leaders but we can all help. Blessed are the Boosters and accursed are the Knockers. No one wants to have anything to do with a fellow who is continually growling and finding fault.



**K**EEP the home fires burning by building up your union. Pay your dues in advance, attend your meeting, help your local officers.



**T**HE Bridge and Structural Ironworkers' International Union has had an assessment on its general membership of two dollars per month per member, in addition to its per capita of 65 cents per month, in order to fight its secessionists and the Employers' League. President Morrin states they are gaining ground each month; they are winning. The monthly assessment will be discontinued after January 1, 1927.

The International Typographical Union in its forty-four-hour strike collected in assessments from its general membership over seventeen million dollars.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has never levied an assessment on its general membership.



**O**PEN your ears and eyes, and watch the fellow who is eternally trying to make trouble in your union. Sometimes he whispers that there is something wrong. Always insinuating, never proving a charge, slick, oily, slimy, dangerous.

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# OFFICIAL MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS STABLEMEN AND HELPERS

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JANUARY, 1927

Number 2

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Daniel J. Tobin, Editor

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## Those "Economic Laws"

MANY PEOPLE who know perfectly well that they should support the miners' struggle for a living wage, comfort themselves for their failure with a vague appeal to "economic law." I wonder what they mean. I wonder what they think they mean.

"Economic" is a blessed word. It can be used to mean everything, anything or nothing. At the present moment, in the public press, it is used with no meaning at all—and with the pretence that it means everything.

Economic law! What is this law, this something which is supposed to be stronger than human will, stronger than human intelligence, stronger than human comradeship and loyalty and duty! The miners, we are told, are struggling against a "law." They must take lower wages, longer hours, worse conditions, because that is a "law."

But what sort of a law is it? It is certainly not a law of nature, like gravitation. It is certainly not a law of man. And it is obviously the very negation, the flat opposite, of the divine laws of justice and kindness.

There is—we are expected to believe—some irresistible, irrefutable, invincible combination of forces which says that the miners must take less than a living wage. The people who condescend to reduce this lunatic contention to specific argument usually say something of the following kind: "You can't carry on an industry at a loss. You can't carry on an industry except for the profit of the shareholders. You can't pay more in



wages than the industry will bear. The slump in the coal industry means that it can't be carried on at all unless the workers accept lower wages." And so on.

What a jumble of the false, the partially true and the irrelevant.

These shibboleths and catchwords look very poor and empty when one asks what they mean.

They all fail by the test of intelligent theory. But let us bring them to the conclusive test of fact.

There may have been (I am sure there was not, but let us admit it for the sake of argument)—there may have been some excuse, at the beginning of the miners' struggle, for those who said in ignorance that neither the mining industry nor the whole community could afford, as a matter of money, to meet the miners' simple, moderate demands. There is no such excuse now. For look what, in fact, the community has afforded.

The lockout, at an absurdly moderate computation, has cost £400,000,000 (\$2,000,000,000). One twentieth of that would have kept the industry going at the old wages till reorganization had taken place. We are asked to believe that a nation which can and does afford £400,000,000 to starve its bravest citizens can not afford £20,000,000 to keep them in work and food.

It is an insult to our intelligence to ask us to believe it. But it is a further insult to tell us it is law.—*Daily Herald*, London, England.

### ***Shout for U. S. Ships; Patronize Foreigners***

Washington. — American business men could build up a merchant marine if they patronized American vessels instead of foreign ships.

President Coolidge drops this hint in his annual message to Congress. The chief executive is diplomatic in his indictment, but the inference is plain.

"Our merchants are altogether too indifferent about using American ships for the transportation of goods which they send abroad or bring home," he said.—*News Letter*.

### ***Court Protects Low-Wage Plan***

Washington.—A union shop agreement between Chicago carpenters and owners of building lumber mills has been declared illegal by the United States Supreme Court.

Both parties agreed not to handle non-union mill work produced in or out of Illinois.

The Federal District Court upheld the charge that the agreement is "a conspiracy to restrain interstate trade and commerce." This was reversed in the Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that there was no evidence of such a conspiracy, and that the proof "disclosed merely an agreement between defendants whereby union defendants were not to work upon non-union-made mill work."

The Supreme Court reverses the Court of Appeals, and sustain the District Court. Much concern is expressed over low-wage employers who "sold their product in the Chicago market cheaper than local manufacturers who employed union labor could do."

The decision again emphasizes the distinction the Supreme Court makes between a commodity in process of manufacture and when it is being sold or delivered in another state.

The court claims no jurisdiction over workers employed in the manufacture of a commodity, but any interference by workers with the delivery or sale of the finished product in another state is classed as a "conspiracy," and as an interference with interstate commerce.

The right of workers, at the delivery or sale end, to work under any condition they choose is ignored by the court. Their refusal to handle such goods for the reason that such



action will lower their living standards, or for any other reason sufficient to themselves, is not considered by the court.

Freedom of action is a "conspiracy" when interstate commerce is involved.

A natural law must yield before the court's construction of an act that is now used for purposes never intended by its authors.—News Letter.

### ***Child Labor Evil Awakens South***

The Progressive Farmer advises cotton growers to abandon their cheap-labor dependence that has brought them an illiterate citizenship and low prices for an unwanted cotton surplus. This Alabama publication says:

"Here is the vicious circle that curses the South:

"We keep our children from school in order to make a surplus of cotton—

"And then this surplus of cotton makes prices so low—

"That then we are so poor we can't spare our children time to go to school—

"And so more cotton makes more ignorance, and more ignorance makes more cotton—and so on ad infinitum."

Privilege has used the farmer for its low-wage and child-labor purpose. This is shown in the campaign for the pending child-labor constitutional amendment. Farmers have been led to believe the proposal would prohibit all child labor in agriculture.

This is untrue. The amendment reads: "The Congress shall have the power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age."

If this amendment is approved by the necessary number of States, Congress will have the power it believed it possessed when it passed two child-labor acts which were set aside by the Supreme Court.

The cotton farmer retained his cheap labor that is now declared by a

courageous spokesman of the farmers to be "a curse to the South." The farmer is pauperized and his children work in the fields when they should be in school.

The cotton situation, as depicted by the Progressive Farmer, is another indorsement of organized labor's opposition to low wages and child labor.

Cheap-labor affects even those who imagine they profit by this system.

No element in society is immune from its baneful consequences.—News Letter.

### ***Rumblings of Storms Give Warning***

The seers, or spiritualists, are warning of disasters that will shake the world during 1928. It would seem that we have experienced the forerunners of such already.

A visitor to this country from across the sea is quoted as saying that the great pyramid, Cairo, Egypt, whose measurements have predicted all great world events, points out another most serious decline to commerce May 28, 1928.

Various Biblical students also accord that the world is facing another test from which it will emerge in 1933.

A. Conan Doyle, whose spiritualistic writings have attracted universal attention, has had "intimations" from the spirit world that catastrophe is to overtake the world, perhaps in 1928, so we are informed. Christianity will form a bulwark of defense during these trying times. Christ's spirit is described by the author as brooding over the world—His world which He has redeemed.

We will certainly need all of our Christian faith, hope and courage to tide us through the trying time, for, according to the predictions of British and other spiritualists: "Devils of the spirit world are mobilizing for an attack on the human race in 1928, which will only be repelled by a disastrous, far-reaching earthquake that



will shake people back to their senses."

Will it? Some thought the World War sounded the tocsin of warning to a mad world to beware. But here we go, jazzing, speeding, killing and committing various other breaches.

However, if you are interested, read further and be warned of what is to come according to the good spirits who are warning of the "worse to follow" manifestations:

"The devils of hell will be unchained," writes H. J. Strutton, editor of the Occult Review. "The bolshevik horror is indicated as the immediate instrument of the dark forces. A wave of revolution and civil war will sweep Europe, carrying with it manifestations of the most fiendish passions of which animal man is capable.

"The continent will eventually become a vast armed camp preparatory to a war against Russia and her allies—in all probability Germany and Turkey.

"Imagination staggers before the awful picture of the diabolical nature of that war—poison gas of hellish potency dropped from aircraft on the civilian populations; the death ray developed as a power from mutual annihilation; explosives of hitherto unknown destruction."

However, Strutton gives us a ray of hope in the assertion that "civilization will be saved from utter destruction only by the visitation of some devastating seismic catastrophe that will shake the warring nations out of their madness and compel them to call a halt."

It does seem that it will yet require the Almighty to give the world a good shaking for the naughtiness of its inhabitants.—Exchange.

He who will not reason, is a bigot; he who cannot, is a fool; and he who dares not, is a slave.—Byron.

## *Amazing Wealth to Few Who Control Production*

Washington. — Twenty thousand men, in control of 1,200 corporations, are the principal beneficiaries of America's prosperity. This announcement follows a survey of tax returns made to the Internal Revenue Bureau.

The returns show that net profits this fiscal year of the 1,200 corporations will total \$5,000,000,000. Total profits of the remaining 398,000 corporations will be less than the 1,200. Within the latter group is a smaller body of 168 corporations whose profits have engulfed them. Each of these combines made a profit of more than \$13,500,000 during the last fiscal year in which the figures are available.

This distribution of wealth, as shown by government reports, may renew agitation for stringent anti-trust legislation and publicity of corporation profits. It may also be used by those who insist that the nation's wealth is falling into the hands of a few persons.—News Letter.

## *Speeding Up Labor Means More Deaths*

Atlantic City, N. J.—Speeding up labor is the major cause for industry killing three men every hour in this country and for the injury for at least four weeks of 700,000 workers annually, said E. H. Lewinski Corwin in an address before the American Hospital Association. The speaker is director of the hospital information bureau of the United Hospital Fund of New York City.

Other reasons for the increase of fatalities are the large number of new employes, following the last depression, and the refusal of employers to install safety appliances.



"Many firms," Mr. Corwin said, "have discharged their safety engineers and entrust the work to welfare departments that possess no expert technical knowledge."

### *Occupational Ills Cause Heavy Losses*

New York.—A survey by the Reconstruction Hospital reveals that industrial workers in this state lose \$35,000,000 annually through occupational diseases. The time lost is 1,500,000 weeks. With proper treatment it is possible to reduce materially the period of sickness disability, it is stated.

### *World War Word Has New Meaning*

Since the World War, the word "propaganda" has lost its innocent meaning and now excites suspicion.

Propaganda, publicity and advertising are coming to be classed in one category. They are all used in business fakes and fraud. In a world of personal and party interest, self-seekers and party agents continually exploit innocent words and phrases.—The Fur Worker.

### *Income of Business But One Wage Factor*

Ottawa, Ontario.—"It is unfair to consider earnings or the absence of earnings as the basis for wage increases, unless other factors are considered," said David Campbell, member of the railway conciliation board, in dissenting from an award that refused a 6 per cent wage increase to railway conductors and railway trainmen.

"If net income or the lack of net income is a factor to be taken into account," Mr. Campbell said, "we

should also consider to what extent these railways have benefited and are benefiting today from the bountiful concessions in land and money freely given them by this country. It should also be considered that an employer like the Canadian Pacific Railway has assets valued, probably, at \$1,000,000,000, against which there exists only \$160,000,000 of common stock, and that its replacements and improvements have been and are being paid out of its earning instead of by capital investment, to say nothing of its constantly increasing rest fund.

"The burden of the financial success of any concern must never be thrust upon its employees nor as a denial of their rights."—News Letter.

### *Vicious Injunction Opposed by Workers*

New York.—Madison Square Garden was crowded with striking cloak-makers at the anti-injunction meeting called by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The meeting was one of the largest ever held in this city. More than 20,000 persons were present and thousands failed to secure admission.

If the injunction could be enforced it would prohibit any member of the union from engaging in strike activities. The manufacturers insist that the court order is necessary to stop violence, but the workers show that in the 11 weeks of their strike, which involves 40,000 workers, the courts released practically every member of this vast army who was charged with violence.

The strike is against a system which has re-established the sweatshop in this industry. Jobbers hawk their contracts to small manufacturers, and the competition lowers wages and work conditions. The jobbers insist that they have no interest in work conditions, as they do not employ labor, but they are giving every aid to manufacturers.—News Letter.



# EDITORIAL

(By Daniel J. Tobin)

ONCE MORE the wheel of time has turned. Again has rolled around another year. Everything seems as before—no great change in society, in industry, or in our every-day struggling existence, because no matter where we are, how we are, or what we are, we are only struggling mortals on an uncertain planet, all striving to reach somewhere, but none of us knowing where it will all end.

One of the principal pleasures, or, at least, a wholesome satisfaction or peace of mind, may be obtained from the fact that we have done our best to be right during the past year. If we did some cruel wrong and did it wilfully, no doubt it will haunt us in our silent hours, no matter how cold-blooded we are or how fearless we may appear to our friends in the daylight. If we have wilfully injured some human being, there cannot be any such thing as self-satisfaction in living.

On the other hand, if we have done service in accordance with the intelligence and strength given us; if we have helped some unfortunate person whose lot in life was much more difficult than ours; if we have made the smile come to the disheartened, discouraged face, or have spoken the word of kindness to those who suffered; if we have, in some small way helped lift up the weak; in short, if we have done, as all of us could do, some of the things in life that are worth doing, then we have lived the year that has passed as real men and that spirit of self-contentment will help strengthen us during any moments of depression that might be ours.

Above and beyond all, we should ask ourselves what institution, association or society has done for us the greatest good during the year. The answer would undoubtedly be: Our Trade Unions.

Then ask yourself the question: Have I carried out my obligation to my trade union? Have I helped build up its membership? Have I upheld its principles by doing that which was helpful to my brothers in so far as was in my power? Examine your conscience and ask yourself if you have carried out that part of the obligation where you promised you would do all in your power to attend the meetings of your local union and that you would observe both the local and national laws as contained in the constitution. If you have not done those things, then you are responsible because your union has not been more effective, has not brought about better results for the general membership and for the whole community in which you reside.

There is no use looking backward. Watch not the descending stars but raise your eyes to the rising sun and look forward. During the coming year pledge yourself to do better than you did during last year. Make a promise to yourself that the little works of kindness which you did during the past year shall be increased during the coming year and that you will be a better man in your home and to your family and that you will do the things for your union which you have, up to now, neglected to do.

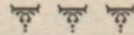
Life is what we endeavor to make it. It may be disagreeable and unhappy no matter with how many luxuries we may be surrounded, or it may be pleasant and peaceful, filled with contentment no matter how black the conditions in the positions we hold may appear to all of us—it all depends on one's self. There is no load so heavy but what strength



sufficient is given to carry same in every particular walk in life. It is true that many of us need help and it is also true that we can help others.

The man who shirks his duty, although he may escape for a time, will eventually be the loser. So it is up to us—each and every one of us—to do our duty during the coming year so we may make the next year brighter, better and happier for ourselves and those around us.

To all of our members I wish a successful, prosperous and happy New Year, filled with contentment and usefulness.



I JUST RETURNED from Minneapolis where my visit was indeed very interesting and beneficial. I went all through the plant of the Franklin Co-operative Creamery Association and I want to say, to me, it was not only interesting but was also very enlightening. A more perfect, high-class institution in the dairy business, in so far as the distribution of milk and butter is concerned, is not to be found anywhere.

First, let me say, I had received a great deal of misinformation relative to this institution, which prompted a previous editorial, and, second, in so far as I could find out relations of the best and most harmonious kind exist between our union and this co-operative concern.

Perhaps it would not be amiss at this time to say that this co-operative plant was created as a result of a strike of the milk wagon drivers of Minneapolis about six years ago. The men went on strike for recognition of their union and better wages and working conditions. The employers in the dairy industry at the time refused to grant the conditions. The men got together and through the aid of many of the other trade unionists in the district they formed the Franklin Co-operative Creamery Association, which has grown from a small plant to an institution with assets and resources now of over \$1,500,000, and this is not taking into consideration the good will of the association, which is an item of great importance.

Every employe in the institution, man or woman, is a member of the union; the bookkeepers, stenographers, carriage and wagon makers, horse-shoers, harness makers, painters, etc., all belong to the union. As far as I could find out, it is the only institution in America where everyone in any way connected with the concern carries a union card in his respective union. There was over \$1,000,000 worth of stock sold to trade unionists and their friends in and around Minneapolis.

Should anything happen to this institution it would be a severe blow to the cause of Labor, because it was founded, and its work has been carried on, by the trade unionists in that district. Every member of the Board of Directors is a trade unionist. I learned during my investigation that this institution, in many instances, pays more than the union scale calls for. The success of this association depends entirely on the management. Like any other institution, it is human and if it should be mismanaged it cannot possibly carry on. The men who are now guiding its destiny, especially the president, Mr. Nordby, seem to thoroughly understand their business and results prove that they have been quite successful.

Of course, Local No. 471 Milk Drivers and Dairy Employes' Union has to deal and treat with this co-operative plant the same as with any of the other employers, and where there are three or four hundred men employed there are always grievances—some imaginary and some real. Whenever a real grievance exists there is not much difficulty in adjusting



it. The farmers who produce the milk in that section of Minnesota are also organized, but between the farmers and the distributors there is no serious misunderstanding, as each party realizes the just claims of the other. The only drawback is that there is a small sprinkling of non-union farmers, or producers, outside the legitimate organization, also a few individual owners, distributing the milk, and one medium-sized dairy that are non-union, so all parties interested should put their shoulders together and try to fully organize the industry in order to get the greatest benefits for all concerned.

In the afternoon, after visiting the Franklin Co-operative Creamery Association, I attended a luncheon given by Local Union No. 471 at one of the leading hotels, at which were present all of the union employers in the milk industry, some labor representatives and the Mayor of Minneapolis. In my talk to those present I endeavored to explain conditions surrounding the Labor Movement, the unfortunate misunderstandings that sometimes arise, the necessity for Capital working hand-in-hand with Labor, so that the business in which we are all engaged may bear fruit, to the end that a just and reasonable profit might be obtained for those who have their capital and those who have their labor invested.

Judging from his remarks and from what I gleaned from the Labor men present, the Mayor is a splendid fellow.

That same evening I attended the meeting of Local Union No. 471 and I want to say that it was one of the best meetings I have attended in years, with seven or eight hundred men present, all respectful, orderly, courteous and deeply interested in the Labor Movement and in everything that was said that evening.

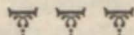
Industrially, conditions in Minneapolis are not healthy. There is a great deal of unemployment. The old logging business, which made that district in the long ago, is now a thing of the past. The saw mills are idle and so are the flour mills; very little building going on and no great hopes for the future. His honor, the Mayor, informed me that a great deal of the depression existing was due to the unfair freight rates applying to the district, but he was quite hopeful that conditions might improve as a result of the development of the waterways leading to Minneapolis.

Where there is idleness there is misery. It is also hard to organize in such a district, but those who are organized are holding tenaciously to the faith, are keeping alive the spirit of the trade union movement, although some foolish organization, calling itself some beautiful business name, is endeavoring to create trouble between the employers and organized labor. This is unfortunate, but I want to say, the average business man in Minneapolis who has sound, common sense deplors this condition. Wherever a fight has been made by either a Chamber of Commerce, an Erectors' Association, or any other such institution, there you will find business, generally, depressed and demoralized and the business men not making any money. Minneapolis business men are waking up to the fact that they have been deceived somewhat by institutions, as mentioned above, and at the present time there seems to be a better understanding between Labor and Capital in the district.

Let us hope that this condition will continue until it crystallizes into a unity which will eventually eliminate unnecessary strife and bring about greater peace, happiness and prosperity in that wonderful old city which was founded and built by those great pioneers from Northern Europe.



THE SPLENDID SANITARY LAWS which prevail in Minnesota, applying especially to the distribution of dairy products, laid dormant on the statute books for a long time, until the Labor Movement insisted on their enforcement. In this Local 471 Milk Drivers and the Franklin Co-operative Creamery Association played no small part. If one drinks milk delivered by a union driver in Minneapolis he need not fear typhoid germs.



SECTION 82 of the Constitution reads as follows: "Wherever three or more local unions are located in one city they shall form a Joint Council."

The seven executive officers of each local union shall constitute the delegates to the Joint Council. Joint Councils have full power to adjust all questions of jurisdiction between local unions, subject to the approval of the General Executive Board.

In accordance with the Constitution, therefore, it is not a question of choice with local unions. It is compulsory where there are three, or more, local unions to form a Joint Council. It is also compulsory for the seven officers of a local union to attend the Council meetings as delegates. Business agents are allowed to attend the meeting and have a voice, but not a vote, unless they hold one of the seven offices in a local union.

Officers who do not attend to their duties should be removed as officers. One of the important duties of a local union officer is to attend the Council meetings. There is no excuse except serious illness, or very serious and important business, for the salaried officers of the locals to remain away from the Council meetings. The work of the Council is very important. The International Convention, in days that are past, realized the importance of the Joint Council.

Wage scales must be approved by the Joint Council. All disputes between unions are subject to consideration and decision by the Council. All strikes, or contemplated strikes, should be brought in and discussed before the Council, because if one local union gets involved in trouble, it undoubtedly involves every local in the district.

Recently in a large city having twelve, or more, local unions affiliated with the Joint Council, one of the local unions desiring endorsement of its wage scale could not get that endorsement because a quorum was not present at a regular meeting to consider the wage scale. Under no circumstances will the International President endorse a wage scale that has not been approved by the Joint Council, where a Joint Council exists. Joint Councils, in meetings assembled, should have the courage to refuse to grant endorsement to a local union presenting a wage scale if it believes that local union hasn't any chance whatever of getting what it is asking for, or if it believes the local is not sufficiently organized to make a fight.

In recent years the officers of local unions are becoming so lazy, or so careless, or so full of their own importance, that in many instances they feel that it is not their duty to attend the Council meetings.

If local officers will not fulfill their duties by attending the meetings, how then can they possibly expect the rank and file to do so? The International Union has the power to order local unions to suspend officers who fail in their duty in this particular and if the local union refuses to comply with the order of the International, the International should, and will, suspend the charter of the local union until compliance with this law is observed.

Wherever I notice a lax Council and wherever I see the officers of a



local union careless and slipshod about their duties, especially about attendance at Council meetings, then I know there is no heart or life in the movement in the district. Wherever I see Council meetings well attended and find local officers discussing their several problems amongst themselves in a business-like manner, as was the custom in the years that are past, then I know that in that district our union is in safe keeping and is bound to prosper and make few mistakes.

The International Union has been closely watching this condition of carelessness and lack of observance of Section 82 of the Constitution for some time past. We have been expecting that there might be a change, but apparently there has been no change. Sometimes I think officers, when they are allowed to remain too long on the job, become careless. I am not in favor of shifting officers who do their work, but I certainly favor shifting officers who are negligent and careless or become sluggish in their duties, or who have too many other things to attend to, or who cannot spare an hour or two from their automobile. Certainly I favor the removal of men of this class because if they are not removed they will eventually pull down the union, and surely the preservation of our union is of greater importance than the holding in office of one or two individuals.

Local unions, see to it that your officers attend the Joint Council meetings. Local officers, it would be well for you to take notice of this article and get down to business. Remember, we are elected to do our duty and those of us who fail should be replaced by others who are anxious and willing to carry on the splendid work of the Trade Union Movement.



## *A Glimpse of the Impressions Made Upon Me While Traveling Through Europe*

(Continued from last month)

ON THE TRAIN to Milan. Back in Italy again. Milan is an old-fashioned city and perhaps one of the most business-like cities in Italy. It has many beautiful stores, many of the department stores being almost as modern as those in New York. Milan is situated in the northern part of Italy, very close to Switzerland and Southern France.

Here we visited the famous and beautiful Marble Cathedral, called the Duomo, with its two thousand statues. The crypt and treasury of this cathedral contains gold and silver vessels and historic articles used by the church in its ceremonies in the days that are past. Amongst the collection is a large crucifix of solid gold studded with diamonds, emeralds and precious stones, the value of which would run into millions. Here is the beautiful Leonardo de Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper. This wonderful painting—one of the finest in the world—was entirely discolored from age, dust, dirt and grime, but through some new process, has been restored and brought back almost entirely to its original appearance.

There was an industrial fair being held at that time in which there were displayed exhibits from all parts of Italy. I visited the fair, looked over the machinery and other industrial exhibits, but when I thought of the fairs and expositions we have in the United States, it looked like a five-cent picture show compared with a first-class musical show.

I shipped my trunk by express from Rome to London and got along



with hand baggage. You may wonder why. For this reason, I got tired being held up by customs officers everywhere and the inconvenience of baggage handlers. In addition, the expense of carrying a trunk is greater than carrying another passenger, that is, there is no free baggage on European railroads except about twenty-five pounds of hand baggage which you must take with you into the car in which you are riding. If you have a trunk they weigh it as carefully as if it were gold and charge you so much per pound, per mile, so in traveling from one city to another your trunk costs as much as your fare, in addition to the inconvenience.

Next day we left by express for Geneva, going through the famous Simplon Pass and Rhone Valley, traveling through some of the most beautiful scenery in Europe.

The City of Geneva is built on the edge of the beautiful Lake Geneva, and for an hour and thirty minutes the train winds around the lake through mountain passes before entering the city.

I visited the building of the League of Nations. I had the good fortune to meet an American lady, a Miss Wilson, a native of New York, who was in charge of the library of the League, and there was nothing of interest that she didn't show me. I held in my hand the original signed Treaty of Locarno. I was much impressed with the sincerity and the desire of the representatives of the many countries affiliated with the League and their anxiety as to whether or not the League would continue to function and be operative.

In the afternoon I visited the Labor section of the League of Nations and there I met Albert Thomas, who is the director of the International Labor office connected with the League of Nations. Mr. Thomas is a Frenchman and was one of the great Labor leaders in France before he was appointed to this office. In politics he was known to be a conservative, constructive, educated Socialist. He is a fine man to meet and speaks English fluently. At that particular time the Labor office had moved into its splendid and most pretentious new building. The new offices of the Labor division are more pretentious than those in the main building where the members of the League meet. The building in which the League congregates, or where the secretaries are continuously at work transacting the affairs of the League, is an old structure which was formerly either an office building or a hotel. The intention is to erect, in the near future, a new modern, up-to-date office building suitable for housing such an important organization.

At the time I was in conference with Mr. Thomas it was expected that our country would become part of the World Court, with certain reservations. Mr. Thomas, myself and other men who are employed there, one an Englishman, a Mr. Butler, whom I had met before, after the ending of the war, and the other an Irishman, assistants to Mr. Thomas, freely discussed the situation pertaining to the World Court, and those men were thoroughly depressed because they believed it would be impossible for other members of the World Court to admit the United States under the reservations as specified by the Senate. The hope of every one around the office of the League of Nations, also around the Labor Building, was that some day, somehow, the United States would join hands with the other countries in Europe in a court or tribunal which would have a tendency to help settle disputes between nations in an endeavor to prevent future wars, and let me repeat right here, that men of every character in Europe with whom I came in contact despise and hate war and are anxious to find a way to prevent war in the future.



Next day I left for the beautiful old town on the side of the mountain, Montreux, so here I am at the foot of the mountain range called the Bernese Oberland Pass on our way to Interlaken. No one can really describe the wonders of those mountains and valleys. The valleys so rich and beautifully green and the mountains eternally covered with several feet of snow. Climbing up on the cogged railroad to the top of Grindelwald reminded me of my climb up Mt. Tamalpais outside of San Francisco, although the climb up the California mountain, which at the time seemed very steep, is but a miniature and feeble climb in comparison with the climb up the railroad to the top of the mountains in Switzerland.

My impression of Switzerland and the Swiss people is that the people there are the most economical and thrifty of any people in Europe. They cultivate every inch of soil. They take the soil washed down into the valley by the melting snow in the summer and place it back again on the side of the mountain in order that it may be cultivated. From the standpoint of cleanliness and sanitary conditions no country in Europe can compare with Switzerland. The Swiss women are so clean that they almost scrub the streets and sidewalks, and in cooking and preparing food they have no equal; besides, they are courteous, kind, generous and thoroughly honest. I have never been in the Scandinavian countries but I am told that the Swedish people come nearest to the Swiss in cleanliness and economy. My impression, however, is that no race or class can outdo the Swiss in their method and manner of living.

There is no great industry in Switzerland. Wood carving seems to be the principal work of the people. Everywhere you go there are beautiful hand-carved chairs, picture frames, musical racks and knick-knacks of every description which make you wish and long to take back with you everything you see, as the prices are quite reasonable, but when you realize the trouble you would have with custom officials in the different places, you simply heave a sigh of relief and say, "Nothing doing." You can buy beautiful, hand-carved hardwood furniture in Switzerland cheaper than you can buy ordinary, slapped-together, machine-made furniture in America. The principal business in Switzerland is catering to the tourists. Everywhere may be found first-class hotels, and everywhere may be found Americans spending their money, and the greatest satisfaction of it all is, the people of Switzerland appreciate every dollar left there by the Americans.

After about a week traveling around Switzerland I embarked again and here I am entering the city of Vienna after passing through Zurich during the night in a sleeper, and Oh my, the sleeper! It certainly was a tough bed. You would be better off in a box stall with a little straw. I had always heard that Vienna was beautiful. It must have been beautiful and is yet somewhat beautiful, but I could readily see that the old life and beauty that obtained in that wonderful city before the war had passed away. I went to the Bristol Hotel, which is, perhaps, as good a hotel as can be found in all of Austria, but, of course, in no way compares with the hotels in many parts of Switzerland and France. In its days before 1914 it must have been a splendid edifice and is now struggling to come back. Americans visiting Vienna for the first time, are delighted with its broad, wide streets and thoroughfares, which in the days of its glory, must have been teeming with equipages of the wealthy and mighty.

Vienna has a Socialist government. I was fortunate in meeting their city manager or city treasurer. I also had the pleasure of meeting an old



friend of mine in Vienna. This man did our printing in Indianapolis for many years and is a very dear, lovable soul. His name is Hugh Thorsch. He is now living in Vienna, having sold his business in the United States and returned to Vienna before the war. Mr. Thorsch and his wife were indeed to me a great source of relief and pleasure by their unselfishness. Through his influence I was able to meet the head of the city government, with whom I talked for some time on the conditions in Vienna. He placed at my disposal, in the afternoon, a car owned by the city and we were driven around visiting the different public buildings and the new apartment buildings that were being erected by the City of Vienna.

Of all the countries in Europe that are to be pitied today, as a result of the war, I think Austria needs the sympathy of the world more than any of the others. A great, powerful nation before the war with its splendid cities and lovable towns, with beautiful buildings and streets, it has been stricken and torn to pieces although not a shell was fired within the confines of that country. After the ending of the war and as they began to unscramble the mess, they divided Austria up, giving great portions of it to several other countries. For instance, Czecho-Slovakia has its own government now. It was part of old Austria and Czecho-Slovakia now holds the iron ore and coal needed in Austria. Another section of the country has been given to Poland, and other portions to other countries. Austria of today is a small part of the Austria of 1914. From my observations I am satisfied there is more poverty in Vienna than in any other city in Europe.

This intellectual Socialist, who was selected to take charge of the affairs of the City of Vienna, is a very highly informed individual and a great executive. As Mr. Thorsch said, "This individual is the best hated man in Vienna," for this reason. There is so very little business left that taxation is very high, so poverty prevails everywhere as a result of idleness. The city government is erecting public or municipal apartment houses in order to make rents lower and in order to give employment to the unemployed. No estimate of the amount of idleness can be made. They told me while there—and I got it from pretty reliable authority—that hundreds die every month from starvation.

I went down and visited the national pawn shop. This is a pawn shop run by the government in order to give the people an opportunity of borrowing a little money without having to pay extortionate interest rates. This building occupies almost a whole block, and in it was to be found every conceivable article of a household that could be stored there on which loans had been made. There was a line of over four hundred people waiting continuously from early morning until late in the evening holding some little trinket, relic, souvenir or gift of prosperous days, endeavoring to get a few pennies on it with which they might buy even half a meal. Mr. Thorsch said: "Mr. Tobin, this is not the worst part of it, for these people have yet some little thing to pawn, but there are thousands who have nothing left to pawn, who have given up everything and who are dying of starvation. I saw men in frock coats and wearing silk hats who had their dress shirt, collar and necktie bundled together ready to pawn while they were wearing what might answer for an undershirt. I could not, if I tried to, exaggerate this story. You would have to witness conditions in order to understand them. I left the building soul sick, with a feeling of depression and agonized nausea impossible to describe and I did not get over it for several days. You would wish you



were a millionaire that you might hand out coins to those hungry, starving people so that they might eat.

I visited the National Military Museum and had the experience of seeing the automobile in which the crown prince was riding when shot by the Servians, which was the cause of starting the World War. We also saw the tunic worn by the Prince, with his blood (now turned black) smeared all over it. Cruel reminiscences of an incident responsible for the slaughter of thousands, and for the impoverishment of the countries, of both the victors and conquered, who participated in that great catastrophe.

I also visited the Imperial Palace of Francis Joseph which is surrounded by spacious grounds. It is now used as a kind of museum. These grounds used to contain many beautiful flower beds and although a few still remain, they told me they were nothing to what they used to be.

This old monarch of the greater Austria is dead. It was his son, the crown prince, whose death brought about the war, and as he was greatly hated by his people, the next heir to the throne fled the country.

The House of Hapsburg is destroyed. It is gone and there does not seem to be much sorrow because of its passing in Vienna. Of course, there are those who remember the days of the glory of the city, but nearly all now agree that constructive government did not prevail before the war, and the only pity obtaining is the pity that such a price had to be paid for the elimination of a house, which, to say the least, did very little for the rank and file of the workers of Austria, and when it vacated, there was nothing but contempt for the family name.

Austria, without a doubt, suffered more from the war than any of the other countries. Yes, more than France, Germany or Belgium. They are all suffering, but there seems to be no future hope for Austria's return. It has been dismembered. My humble opinion is that unless some other country, such as Germany, takes over Austria and makes it part of that country, that it cannot continue to function as an independent government. Austria has lost all its raw materials, such as iron, coal and oil. It seems to me it would be better for those immediately concerned were Czecho-Slovakia or Poland to take over Austria, but, to my mind, the best annexation would be to merge what is left of Austria with Germany.

(To be continued next month)



### **Good Business**

"The way to check a threatened business depression is to cut prices and increase wages," Henry Ford said in an interview published in the current issue of Collier's Weekly.

"It is good business," said Mr. Ford, "always to raise wages and never to lower them. 'Higher wages and lower prices mean greater power—more customers.'"

The theory that the right prices for a commodity are "what the traffic will bear," and the right wage is "the

lowest sum a man will work for," is an unsound one, the automobile manufacturer believes.

"The right price is the price an article can steadily be sold for," he said, "and the right wage is the wage the employer can steadily pay."

The "captains" of industry who hire gangsters to beat, maim and murder unionists are the same as hire courts to issue labor injunctions in violation of law and the federal constitution.



# CORRESPONDENCE

## *Scranton, Pa.*

D. J. Tobin, President,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

To think of the past is but a dream. To think of the future seems a prospect. So I am writing of the future by going back a few years to start. Ten years ago a few of the milk wagon drivers of Scranton became members of Local No. 229, and soon after a whole lot more became members. Conditions began to get better. As time went on we were successful in making the milk industry one hundred per cent union.

Ten years ago wages were small for the milk man here. Some received as low as forty-five dollars per month with no time off, and no limit to hours. Should one finish his work in ten to twelve hours he would be doing fine. We received some increases in wages, and were doing fairly well up until the time of war. During the war period I am not able to say just how things went. But soon after, or rather one year after the war was over, we were successful in receiving a wage for drivers of one hundred and thirty dollars per month.

Soon after came the one day off per month. Then came the weekly pay scale with a five dollar per week increase. Next came the organizing of the inside dairy employes and making all dairy concerns, no matter how small, sign our agreement. Then came the two days off per month, and this year we have a splendid agreement. Every seventh day off with pay, one week's vacation with pay. Inside men from twenty-eight to thirty-five dollars per week, nine-hour day. Truck drivers from thirty to thirty-seven dollars, nine-hour day. Route delivery men from thirty-five to forty-two dollars per week and nine-hour day.

This we feel is not our climax. We

are going ahead when the time and conditions will allow. With the splendid results we have had goes something more: We have had but one short period of strike in all these years. The only time we were compelled to stop work was for seven hours one day a few years ago. After seven hours had passed the employers were ready to do their duty, and the men went back to work.

A whole lot of the success of Local No. 229 must be credited to the International Officers. Mr. Daniel J. Tobin and Mr. Thomas L. Hughes were the two generals in all our battles. It was they who directed our order of business. Many times we thought they might be wrong, but after following their advice we came out on top. It would be my wish that an account of our success get into the hands of men who are not organized. It might be of some help. I have neglected to tell you that Mr. William H. Ashton, General Organizer, acted as advisor in the major part of our troubles and he too will be remembered by our boys.

Would you think that in ten years such success could come to the milk man. We never dreamed of it. Now here is how it is done: When a new agreement is to be drawn up, be careful. Do not ask for more than you expect to get, with the thought in mind of dividing what you ask for in two. The employers are on to such a measure and after you have made your division, they as a rule will offer you a part of the division. The results will be you will receive one-quarter of what you ask for. If you ask for a small increase be satisfied, get it, take no less, and some day you will be the one who has gained more than the fellow who asked for a whole lot and received whatever the employer has been forced to pay. We have followed out the plan of asking for what we really wanted rather than to ask for



a whole lot more and getting the employers a little out of sorts, thereby making hard feelings and oftentimes a battle.

Now I am sure that every member of our local who is working in or around the dairies here has something to be thankful for today. And to think that such an agreement was reached in time that he may express his glad thought on New Year's Day. With the pleasant thought, and my wishes, that every man who works seven days a week may be able in the near future to say that he too works six days and rests one, I close.

Fraternally yours,  
ORVILLE C. SKELTON,  
Secy.-Treas., Local No. 229,  
Scranton, Penna.

### *Commodity Output Breaks Record*

Washington.—“A new industrial revolution is just dawning. A still greater output per hour of work is possible. A still greater quantity of goods can be turned out by our industrial machine.”

The above summary of production figures issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is made by the weekly bulletin of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

In its preface to reports on the gain in output of American industry, the Bureau of Labor Statistics declares that “a new industrial revolution,” perhaps the most remarkable advance in productive efficiency in the history of the modern industrial system, something that “may far exceed in economic importance the series of mechanical inventions in the last quarter of the eighteenth century which transformed English industrial, political and social life,” is being experienced in the United States.

The bureau has reported on nine important manufacturing industries. For every hour a man works in an industry thus far examined, he is producing from one-tenth to twice as

much as before the war and in most cases from a fourth to a half more. The figures are as follows:

Iron and steel, 25 per cent more in 1924-25 than in 1914-16.

Automobiles, 181 per cent more than in 1916.

Boots and shoes, 17 per cent more than in 1914.

Cement, 57 per cent more than in 1914.

Leather, 28 per cent more than in 1914.

Flour, 39 per cent more than in 1914.

Cane sugar, 27 per cent more than in 1914.

Meat packing, 10 per cent more than in 1909.

Petroleum refining, 17 per cent more than in 1914.

“This remarkable increase in output is due in part to managerial expertness, in part to new inventions, in part to a speeding up process, and in part to more experienced and better paid labor,” says the weekly bulletin of the N. C. W. C. “That industry is still far away from full efficiency and that an even greater production an hour is possible is common knowledge and has been frequently shown by engineers either through individual investigations or committee reports of their organizations.

“The new industrial revolution gives those in control of it still greater strength. This makes it all the more necessary for labor unions, co-operative societies and governments to now do what is required to bend the new industrial revolution to the welfare of those who work in it and those who buy its products.”—News Letter.

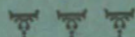
One thing is sure, that no law can be made in this country that will stand, that makes a man a slave and prevents him from ceasing work. That amounts to involuntary servitude and is forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.



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**T**HE LABOR MOVEMENT, generally, is not building up in membership and anyone who tries to tell you so is giving you the wrong information. The general membership of the Labor Movement is lower than it was three years ago. This condition prevails all over the world. Every country in the world has lost in membership with, perhaps, the exception of Russia and Italy and those two countries might just as well not have any union at all as they have no right to assert themselves so far as wages and working conditions are concerned; that is, the members have no right to strike, as the unions in those countries are run by the government.

Our International Union is quite fortunate as we are not only holding our own but are building up a little gradually. We should all work to bring in new members and, if we do, I am satisfied we will have at least one and one-half times as many members as we now have.



**I**T IS ONLY by the hardest kind of work; by continually persevering; by never giving up the battle; by always keeping on the front line watching carefully, that we have held our membership, and the working conditions and wages that we enjoy. If there was ever a time that "eternal vigilance" was necessary now is the time, because we are fighting the smoothest and cleverest movement ever inaugurated by the enemies of the trade union movement, with its silent, creeping, ever-persevering determination to steal our unions from us by making the employees partners in the business, by selling them stock.

When a man has one hundred dollars' worth of stock in a business he begins to think that his one hundred dollars' worth of stock is more important to him than his union. I am speaking now of large corporations and industries, with their scientific and efficiency engineers who are continually endeavoring to destroy the union because of its usefulness to the toilers.

The Bible says: "The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children even unto the third and fourth generation." If we neglect our duty now by refusing to protect the union that has been given us by those who made it, then the sin we are committing against the future generations is of such a nature, so far-reaching in the evil it can do, that we should be cursed by those who follow us because of our cowardice and neglect.



**W**HAT though brothers rave against us;  
What though myriad be the foe;  
Victory will be more honored  
In the myriad's overthrow.

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